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QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY -
PREVENTION OF THE VIOLENT
DISINTEGRATION OF STATES
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MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 22 December 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the final communiqué and Abu Dhabi declaration adopted at the nineteenth session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council held in Abu Dhabi from 7 to 9 December 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 39, 40, 62, 71, 74, 91, 93, 149 and 155, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Final communiqué

In response to the kind invitation of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council held its nineteenth session in the United Arab Emirates from 18 to 20 Sha'ban A.H. 1419 (7 to 9 December A.D. 1998), under the presidency of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and with the participation of the following:

His Highness Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Amir of Bahrain;

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard of Saudi Arabia;

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman;

His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of Qatar;

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait.

His Excellency Sheikh Jamil Ibrahim al-Hegelan, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, also attended.

The Supreme Council considered developments in the process of cooperation in security, military, economic, social and information fields since the eighteenth session and studied the reports and recommendations submitted by the Ministerial Council. It affirmed the determination of Gulf Cooperation Council States to continue to strengthen and defend the Council's progress towards wider horizons, with a view to realizing improved results in response to the aspirations of the citizens of Council States, and in order to bring security, stability and development to the region.

The Supreme Council gave full consideration to developments in the political and security situations at regional and international levels.

The Supreme Council greatly appreciated the attendance of His Excellency Mr. Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, at the opening meeting, the important speech he made and the meetings he had with the leaders of Gulf Cooperation Council States while the session was being held in Abu Dhabi. It commended the role the President played in establishing the excellent relations enjoyed by Council States and the Republic of South Africa, and thanked him for the appreciative remarks he made with respect to the Gulf Cooperation Council and its regional and international role. The Council extended to President Mandela its good wishes for happiness and success in his private and public life in coming years.

The Supreme Council was highly appreciative of the speech delivered by His Excellency Mr. Jacques Chirac, President of France, to the leaders of Gulf Cooperation Council States at the opening meeting, in which he expressed his country's friendship and respect for the Council.

The Supreme Council was gratified by the attendance of His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the opening meeting, and greatly appreciated the speech he made and the meetings he had with the leaders of Gulf Cooperation Council States. It expressed its approval of and support for the activities of the United Nations and the leading role assigned to it in dealing with international relations, which it performs in a manner that best serves international peace and security and economic, social and human development for all peoples and States of the world. The Supreme Council expressed its pride in the appreciation and respect voiced by the Secretary-General for the Gulf Cooperation Council and its importance in strengthening security, stability and development in the region.

The Supreme Council acknowledged with gratitude the attendance at the opening meeting of the nineteenth session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council of His Excellency Dr. Esmat Abdel Meguid, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and His Excellency Mr. Azzeddine Laraki, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the useful meetings and consultations they held with leaders of Council States.

The process of joint cooperation

The holding of a half-yearly consultative meeting of the Supreme Council

The Supreme Council decided that His Majesty and Their Highnesses, the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council States, would hold a fraternal consultative meeting between sessions.

Military matters

The Supreme Council approved the decisions adopted at the seventeenth meeting of Their Highnesses and Their Excellencies the Ministers of Defence of the Council States, held in Riyadh, with regard to a defence force for the peninsula, continuation of the implementation of the network of security communications, radar and early warning coverage and other areas of military cooperation. The Council expressed satisfaction at the steps that had been taken, affirming the importance of continued implementation of all military cooperation programmes intended to strengthen the collective defence capabilities of every Council State.

Security

The Supreme Council approved the decisions adopted at the seventeenth meeting of Their Highnesses and Their Excellencies the Ministers of the Interior, held in Kuwait on 3 and 4 November 1998, and expressed satisfaction at the coordination and cooperation that had been effected in various areas of the security cooperation process, and, in particular, with regard to the strengthening of collective measures to combat violence and terrorism and the

development of professional training programmes and technical education in penal and reform institutions.

Economic matters

The Supreme Council studied the situation in the oil market and the effects of the fall in prices on the economies of member States. The Council stressed the desire of member States for cooperation with a view to stabilizing the oil market and improving prices, and the need for oil-producing States to abide by the reduced quotas that had been agreed upon in November 1998 in order to achieve those ends. The Supreme Council approved the extension of the reduced production quotas agreed by member States until the end of 1999, and urged other petroleum-producing States to take comparable measures in order to bring stability to the market, in the best interests of producers and consumers and of peace and stability in the global economy. If States respected the reduced quotas, Council member States were prepared to enter into appropriate arrangements with other oil-producing States with a view to stabilizing the market. The Supreme Council instructed the Committee on Petroleum Cooperation to intensify contacts to that end.

In preparation for the new round of trade negotiations to be held by the World Trade Organization in the year 2000, the Supreme Council instructed the Committee on Petroleum Cooperation and the Committee on Trade Cooperation in member States to study the effects and benefits of oil being included among the products to be completely exempt from customs duties by the World Trade Organization.

The Supreme Council reviewed the progress made in economic cooperation and the succession of steps taken with a view to establishing a customs union for member States. It approved the timetable for the establishment of such a union, and the beginning of work related to that project in March 2001. The Council instructed the Committee on Financial and Economic Cooperation to conclude an agreement on a unified customs tariff by no later than December 1999.

Desirous of achieving balance between demographic composition and the labour force in member States and increasing the level of their citizens' economic participation, the Supreme Council approved a document entitled The general framework for the demographic strategy of the Gulf Cooperation Council States.

With a view to meeting the challenges and demands of comprehensive development and drawing up broad guidelines for coping with such challenges during the first quarter of the twenty-first century and specifying the strategic goals for development in Council States, and the development processes and mechanisms necessary to achieve those goals, the Supreme Council approved a document entitled A comprehensive, long-term development strategy for Gulf Cooperation Council States, 2000-2025.

In support of the industrial development process in member States and of joint industrial cooperation efforts to achieve industrial development on an integrated basis, and with a view to increasing the contribution of the industrial sector to gross national product, the Supreme Council approved the

amended version of the unified strategy for the industrial development of the Gulf Cooperation Council States.

In order to complete the harmonization of economic regulations in member States, the Supreme Council approved the two compulsory regimes for agricultural quarantine and for veterinary quarantine in member States, the consultation process on which, held over recent years, has been completed.

With a view to ameliorating the profession of accountancy and auditing, developing standards in and effecting coordination and integration amongst member States, the Supreme Council approved the basic regulation for the accountancy and auditing board of Gulf Cooperation Council States.

In order to protect human health and the environment, the Supreme Council approved the recommendation to speed up production of lead-free gasoline (benzine) and market it in member States by the year 2002. It also approved the taking of all the measures necessary to reduce the amount of sulphur in the diesel produced by national refineries, in order to comply with the relevant maximum global levels.

The Supreme Council welcomed the establishment of the patents office and the inauguration of its work, affirming the concern of member States to protect intellectual property.

The Supreme Council reviewed the economic situation in member States, and affirmed its concern to ensure the continuance of a climate favourable to investment in those countries, with a view to strengthening the production capacities of their economies and increasing employment opportunities for nationals. It commended the private sector's effective participation in various economic sectors and activities.

With regard to expanding the range of Gulf Cooperation Council States' economic relations with international economic groupings and States, the Supreme Council acknowledged the efforts made to develop and deepen the dialogue and negotiations with such groupings and States, and stressed the importance of increased efforts to expand the range of Council States' relations with them, thereby assuring joint economic and investment interests and removing obstacles to Council States' exports reaching such groupings and world markets.

The Consultative Council

The Supreme Council having constituted the Consultative Council, it expressed its satisfaction at the inauguration of its work, and instructed it to consider the employment of national labour forces and to facilitate the transfer thereof between States in order to increase employment opportunities for Council States' nationals.

Human concerns and the environment

The Supreme Council decided that Council States' Ministers of Education should prepare a comprehensive study for the development of curricula, with a

view to strengthening mutual contacts and best serving the needs of member States, reinforcing Council procedures and achieving its goals.

Information

The Supreme Council took cognizance of the conclusions of the ninth meeting of Information Ministers, held in November 1998, and approved the recommendations submitted concerning support and encouragement for joint information activities carried out by the information organs of Council States. The Council also decided that those organs should continue to monitor developments in international information in conformity with the goals of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The Joint Supreme Committee for Cooperation between Qatar and the United Arab Emirates

The Supreme Council took cognizance of the agreement to establish the Joint Supreme Committee for Cooperation between Qatar and the United Arab Emirates signed in Doha on 17 Sha'ban A.H. 1419 (6 December A.D. 1998), welcoming the agreement as beneficial to and in the best interests of the two countries and their fraternal peoples and as a positive and important step in support of Gulf Cooperation Council work and consonant with the lofty goals of Council States.

Political matters

Implementation by Iraq of Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait

The Supreme Council discussed developments in Iraq's implementation of Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait, and noted the successive crises with the United Nations provoked by the Iraqi Government and the consequent tension and threat to security and stability in the region. The Council expressed its satisfaction that the most recent crisis between Iraq and the United Nations had been defused by the Iraqi Government's renunciation of its decisions of 5 August and 31 October 1998 to halt cooperation with the Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and its resumption of cooperation with United Nations inspectors in accordance with the mechanisms provided for in the Security Council resolutions and the memorandum of understanding signed by the Government of Iraq and the Secretary-General of the United Nations in February 1998. The fraternal Iraqi people and the region were thereby spared any further perils and security and stability were upheld. The Council affirmed its support for the endeavours of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Special Commission, which has been given an international mandate to eliminate all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. The Council stressed that the Iraqi Government should strictly and faithfully undertake its obligation to implement all Security Council resolutions without conditions or exceptions, and, in particular, with regard to the elimination of all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, the freeing of Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees, the return of Kuwaiti property and compliance with Security Council resolution 949 (1994), which demands that Iraq not again utilize its military or any other forces in a hostile or provocative manner to threaten the State of Kuwait or its neighbours. The performance of these

obligations would help to ease the sanctions imposed on Iraq and alleviate the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people, for which the Iraqi Government is entirely responsible, and by which Council States are deeply distressed. In view of that suffering, the Council welcomed the oil-for-food agreement to supply the fraternal Iraqi people with food and medicine, and Security Council resolution 1210 (1998) renewing that agreement, just as it has always welcomed any initiative that serves to alleviate that suffering.

The Supreme Council reiterated the statement made at its previous session and published in the relevant documents, to the effect that Iraq must unequivocally and clearly recognize that its attack on and occupation of Kuwait was a violation of Arab and international conventions and legitimacy, a violation of the Charter of the League of Arab States, the Joint Arab Defence Treaty and the Charter of the United Nations. It also reiterated its appeal to Iraq to take the sufficient and necessary steps, in word and in deed, to prove its peaceful intentions towards Kuwait and its neighbouring States, in a manner that would bring security and stability to all States of the region.

The Supreme Council reaffirmed its steadfast endorsement of the continued independence, territorial integrity and regional security of Iraq.

The question of the occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran

(a) The issue of the occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates:

The Supreme Council reviewed developments in the matter of the Iranian occupation of the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa belonging to the United Arab Emirates. It noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran was persisting in making unacceptable claims with regard to the three islands and continuing to take measures designed to consolidate its occupation. The Supreme Council once again reaffirmed the need for the Iranian Government to respond to the repeated earnest and sincere invitations from the United Arab Emirates, the Gulf Cooperation Council States, the Damascus Declaration States, the League of Arab States and other regional and international organizations, institutions and groupings, to arrive at a peaceful solution of this conflict, thereby allowing the positive policies of the Government of President Mohammad Khatami to gain the credibility necessary for the establishment of mutual confidence, the development of cooperation and the upholding of security and stability in the region.

The Supreme Council reiterated its affirmation that the United Arab Emirates holds sovereignty over the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and its absolute support for all peaceful measures and means that country might adopt in order to restore its sovereignty over those islands. It also reiterated its request to the Iranian Government to terminate its occupation of the three islands, desist from its policy of imposing the status quo by force, refrain from placing Iranian installations on the islands with a view to altering their demographic composition, annul all measures, remove all installations already unilaterally put in place on the islands and use peaceful means, including referral of the issue to the International Court

of Justice, in order to resolve the dispute, in accordance with the principles and precepts of international law.

(b) Relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran:

The Supreme Council carried out a comprehensive review of the relations of Council States with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and of the outcome of bilateral contacts since the Council's last session in the light of the Gulf Cooperation Council position, which focuses on the importance of establishing good relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, pursuant to the principles of good-neighbourliness, mutual respect, consideration for shared interests, non-interference in internal affairs, refraining from the use or threat of force and the resolution of disputes by peaceful means. The Supreme Council expressed its conviction that trust could be built by taking practical steps to resolve the problems between the two sides, pursuant to the established international precepts and norms with regard to the resolution of disputes by peaceful means. A prime example of such a dispute is the continued occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates.

The Supreme Council welcomed the efforts made by Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, with a view to arranging negotiations between the United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to settle their dispute over the three islands. The Supreme Council urged the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue his efforts and to sponsor the negotiations.

The Supreme Council also called upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to make some meaningful response to the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in order to establish security and stability in the region.

<u>The Middle East peace process</u>

The Supreme Council considered developments in the Middle East peace process and welcomed the Wye River Memorandum signed on 23 October 1998 by the Palestinian and Israeli sides. This represents an important and positive step that must be followed by further steps towards carrying out all the agreements signed by the parties concerned, upholding all Arab rights and laying the foundations for security, stability and a comprehensive and lasting peace in the best interests of all the peoples of the region. It also expressed its appreciation of the significant efforts made by the President of the United States, Mr. William Clinton, to ensure that the Palestinian and Israeli sides had concluded that agreement. In this context, the Supreme Council demands that the Israeli Government should, without procrastination, honour its obligation to implement the Memorandum in a faithful and scrupulous fashion.

The Supreme Council reaffirmed that the peace which is sought can only be achieved through the restoration of legitimate Arab rights and commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy, the central themes of the Madrid Peace Conference and the principle of land for peace, pursuant to Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978) and 426 (1978). It also reiterated its affirmation that peace will only be just, lasting and

comprehensive when the Palestinian people obtains its legitimate national rights, foremost of which is the establishment of an independent State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital; that Israel must completely withdraw from all occupied Arab territory, including the Syrian Arab Golan, to the boundary line that existed on 4 June 1967, and from southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa, pursuant to Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), without imposing conditions or restrictions, and that the United Nations should remain seized of the matter.

The Supreme Council expressed its absolute rejection and condemnation of the settlement policy pursued by Israel in the occupied Arab territories and of the Israeli Government's decision to expand the geographical boundaries of the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and change its demographic composition, considering that decision to be a violation of the provisions of international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy. It reaffirmed its commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy which stipulate that situations resulting from Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories should not be recognized or accepted, and demanded that such activities should cease and that Israel should refrain from any action that could have a negative impact on the final status negotiations with the Palestinian side.

While it appreciates the efforts made by the United States Administrat on, the Russian Federation, the European Union and its member States to help put the peace process back on track, the Supreme Council urges those States to continue to expand their effective role and bring pressure to bear on Israel to honour its undertakings and carry out its commitments, and to insist on the need for negotiations to be resumed on the Syrian track from the point at which they broke off, as well as on the Lebanese track, in order to achieve peace, security and stability for the region and its peoples.

The elimination of weapons of mass destruction

The Supreme Council renewed its request to the international community to work towards the establishment of a zone free from all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in the Middle East, including the Gulf region. The Council reiterated its affirmation that Israel must accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and place all its nuclear installations under the international inspection system of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Lockerbie question

The Supreme Council reviewed developments in the Lockerbie crisis and the response of the parties concerned to the diplomatic initiatives put forward with a view to resolving the issue. It expressed the hope that the recent visit paid by Mr. Kofi Annan to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would lead to a resolution of the issue.

The phenomenon of extremism, violence and terrorism

The Supreme Council reiterated its categorical rejection of all forms of extremism, violence and terrorism, whatever their source or incentive, and

wherever they occur, and of the danger they represent and the threat they pose to the security, peace and stability of States, their citizens and residents. The Council affirmed the determination of its States to resist this phenomenon and to confront it by an intensification of security contacts, coordination and cooperation. At the same time, it urged all States, and, in particular, those linked to Council States by ties of friendship and mutual interest, not to harbour terrorist and extremist elements and groups, offer them political asylum or permit them to use the territory and laws of those States to carry out their terrorist activities and acts of sabotage and to alarm the peaceful and innocent. The Supreme Council renewed its call for the conclusion of an international convention to combat terrorism, affirming its conviction that the best and only way to eradicate terrorism was by means of international action agreed upon at the United Nations and guaranteeing that this international phenomenon, which claims human victims and causes material losses, would be suppressed. In this context, the Supreme Council applauded the signature of the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism at the League of Arab States in April 1998.

The re-appointment of the Secretary-General

The Supreme Council expressed its appreciation of the sterling efforts made by the Secretary-General and his effective contribution to the strengthening of the Council's performance. It decided to renew the appointment of His Excellency Sheikh Jamil Ibrahim al-Hegelan as Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council for a further three years with effect from 1 April 1999, wishing His Excellency every success in his duties during the forthcoming period.

The nomination of His Excellency Dr. Ghazi bin Abdul-Rahman Al-Qusaibi for the post of Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The Supreme Council welcomed the nomination of His Excellency Dr. Ghazi bin Abdul-Rahman Al-Qusaibi, currently Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Kingdom, for the post of Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Elections for the post will be held at the headquarters of the Organization during the one hundred and fifty-seventh session of its Executive Board in October 1999.

The Council expressed its satisfaction with regard to and welcomed the fact that Arab States, at the conference of Ministers of Education held recently in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, had announced this nomination, considering His Excellency Dr. Ghazi bin Abdul-Rahman Al-Qusaibi as standing on behalf of the Arab States. The Council expressed the hope that all friendly countries throughout the world would support this nomination.

The Supreme Council expressed its deep appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and to the Government and people of the United Arab Emirates for the warmth of their reception, their gracious hospitality and their genuinely fraternal sentiments, commending the arrangements that had been made in order to host the meeting.

The leaders of Council States praised the important role played by His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and President of the current session of the Supreme Council, in conducting the meetings, which had a major impact on bringing about the decisions and important conclusions through which the aspirations of the peoples of Council States are addressed.

The Supreme Council congratulated His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and the people of the United Arab Emirates on the occasion of their twenty-seventh National Day, wishing the United Arab Emirates every success and prosperity.

The leaders of Council States expressed the pleasure they felt at the awarding of the International Peace Prize to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman, and availed themselves of the opportunity to renew their sincere congratulations to His Majesty. The prize represents international appreciation of the value of His Majesty's wise policies and recognition of his role in serving and upholding the causes of regional and international peace.

The Supreme Council commended the genuine and sincere efforts made by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait during his presidency of the eighteenth session of the Supreme Council, and the wisdom and ability shown by His Highness in his laudable conduct of and follow-up to the proceedings.

The Supreme Council looks forward to meeting at its twentieth session, to be held, God willing, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in December 1999, at the kind invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia.

Abu Dhabi, 9 December 1998

The Abu Dhabi Declaration

Adopted at the nineteenth session of the
Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council

9 December 1998

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

The Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council,

at its nineteenth session held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, having discussed the current Arab situation in a spirit of the utmost responsibility and with a deep desire to achieve a better future for the peoples of the Arab nation,

Guided by our true religion and our tolerant Shariah, and prompted by the purposes and aims of the Charters of the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council;

Believing in the common destiny of the Arab nation and in the unbreakable bonds linking the Arab peoples;

Believing also that a better future can only be assured for the Arab nation by a firm commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charters and resolutions of the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations, with a view to avoiding the negative aspects of the past that have led to a state of fragmentation and lack of unity;

Conscious that only effective Arab solidarity based on Arab legitimacy and the Islamic faith will make it possible to protect Arab first principles, safeguard the vital interests of the Arab nation and confront the challenges of the future;

Convinced of the close linkage of national interests with those of the Arab nation and of the clear connection between the national security of Arab States and that of the Arab nation;

Affirming the purposes and principles of joint Arab action based on integrity of intentions, a commitment to legality, national sovereignty, mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs, non-recourse to threat or use of force and the use of peaceful means to resolve disputes; and affirming the mutual dependence of Arab States;

Having learned the lessons imposed by the nature of the political and economic changes in the international arena, and the current flux in international relations;

Conscious of the need to prepare joint Arab action in order to confront the challenges arising from the effect of international changes on the Arab region and to remove the negative aspects of the past;

Declares its determination to do the following:

First: Work to strengthen Arab relations in accordance with established Arab, Islamic and international principles, laws and conventions in order to enable our Arab nation to rebuild Arab solidarity;

Second: Make a sustained effort to rebuild Arab relations on a firm foundation of security, confidence and trust;

Third: Work in order to build effective Arab solidarity on the solid ground of a commitment to the principles and precepts of joint Arab action;

Fourth: Develop joint Arab action with a view to realizing the aspirations of Arab States to development, construction, security and stability, and in order to prepare the Arab region for the demands of international political and economic change and ensure the material and moral well-being of the peoples of the Arab nation.

Abu Dhabi, 20 Sha'ban A.H. 1419 (9 December A.D. 1998)